

PATENT**REMARKS**

Claims 1-82 are pending in the present application.

In the Office Action mailed 5/17/2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7, 11, , 13-14, 16-21, 23, 25-27, 31, 35, 38, 40, 42-44, 48, 52, 54-55, 57-62, 64, 66-68, 72, 76, 79, and 81 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sarkar et al., US Patent 6,842,624 (Sarkar), rejected claims 4, 8-10, 12, 15, 22, 24, 28, 32-34, 36-37, 39, 41, 45, 49-51, 53, 56, 63, 65, 69, 73-75, 77-78, 80, and 82 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Sarkar in view of Pfeil et al, US Patent 6,191,738 (Pfeil), and objected to claims 5-6, 29-30, 46-47, and 70-71 as reciting allowable subject matter.

The rejections are traversed for the following reasons. The filing date of this application is August 6, 2001. The effective filing date of Sarkar is August 29, 2001 which is after the filing date of this application. Therefore, Sarkar does not qualify as prior art under 35 USC 102(e) and hence, the 35 USC 102 and 103 rejections based on Sarkar are improper and should be withdrawn.

PATENT

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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